Guidelines for use of forests by tribals

†1658. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to formulate guidelines for the use of a part of the forests by the tribals and adivasis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are planning for rehabilitation of the forest dwellers; and

(d) if so, the detail: thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has framed the draft Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rules, 2007 for carrying out the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 to recognize and vest certain rights over forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. The draft rules under the Act have been pre-published in the Gazette of India dated 19.6.2007 seeking comments and suggestions from the public and other stakeholders. The proposed rules are to be finalised as per the established procedure taking views and comments received from the public into consideration. There are provisions for rehabilitation in the Act.

Decrease in the population of Baiga tribe in Chhattisgarh

1659. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that population of Baiga tribe in Chhattisgarh is decreasing day by day and is virtually on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, the total number of people of this tribe living in the country, State-wise;

(c) their population ten years ago in Chhattisgarh; and.

(d) the details of action taken during the last three years and being taken by Government for the development of this tribe and save them from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) As per the Census figures, the total population of Baiga tribe in districts of Madhya Pradesh, which now constitutes the State of Chhattisgarh, has increased from 54,330 in 1991 to 69,993 in 2001, and has registered a 28.8 per cent growth. The State-wise population of Baiga tribe as per Census 2001 is enclosed at Statement-I (*See* below).

(d) The Ministry has been implementing the scheme 'Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)' for overall development of all PTGs including Baiga PTG

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.